



## ***RV Maria S. Merian***

***Cruise MSM-73***

***06.04.-22.05.2018***

***Cádiz – St. John's***



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### **7. Weekly Report**

**14.05.-20.05.2018**

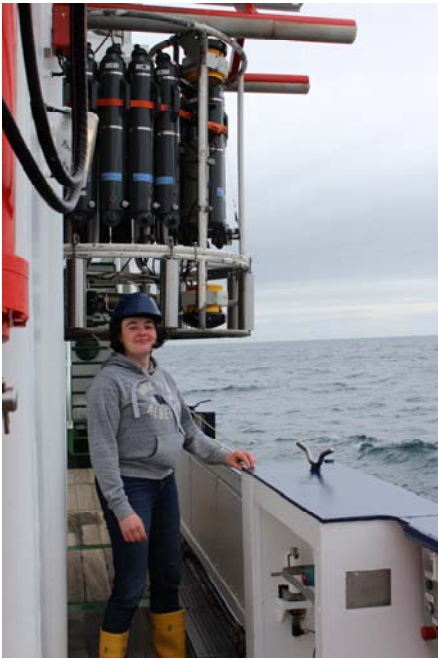
Week no. 7, we had the last research week ahead, and the program was intense until the end. After completing the telemetry work on the PIES BP-15 (Monday, 14.05.2018), we continued our cruise on a southeastern course. With stations every 30 nautical miles, we worked our way up to PIES station BP-12, which we had already visited at the beginning of the journey. At that time, we had recovered the echo-sounder installed at the sea bottom. Now, on Thursday, 17.05.2018, we put out a freshly serviced device again, so that for another three years data can be recorded at this position.

The PIES station BP-12 was a watershed in many ways. We finished the water sampling here and were back on the 47°/48°N section, so we changed on a western course and headed towards the Flemish Cap. Five CTD stations were still on our list, and these were related to the imminent deployment of the remaining equipment. Between Friday, 18.05., and the early Whitsunday, we put out three more PIES. Thus, the positions BP-27, BP-28 and BP-31 are again occupied with devices. On Saturday and Sunday, we had two more mooring deployments to be carried out. Despite wind forces of 7-8 Bf we got both moorings, BM-22 and BM-24, quickly and safely into the water. Finally, we ushered in the end of the research with the emptying of the water sampler bottles from the last CTD station, which was jointly done by all scientific participants.

Now that we're on our way to St. John's, it's time to clean up, finish reports, pack boxes and do a general "clear ship". We will then arrive on Tuesday, 22.05.2018, in St. John's, Newfoundland and hand over the ship to our successors. Therefore, we would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Captain Ralf Schmidt and his entire crew, who have provided us with excellent support over the past few weeks. A real downer is the PIES and station work in the East Atlantic, which we were unable to carry out due to the storm situation over several days this year. Unfortunately, the North Atlantic does not always show its research-friendly side ... But all the data we bring home, including data from 172 CTD stations, will keep us busy in the coming months. Without the great cooperation on board and the preparations of our colleagues at home, that would not have been possible. For all a big thank you from us.

Greetings on behalf of all cruise participants,

*Paquer Kuts*



While deploying the water sampler ...



A PIES is waiting its deployment.



The tracer measurement system, shortly before its disassembly.

